

Grace Church Visitor

A Monthly Magazine Devoted to the Interest of Grace Reformed Church
FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

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No. 12

"LITTLE THINGS"

A Message Suggested by February

We have come again to the "little" month of the year.

In itself that does not mean much. It matters not whether we name a day February or assign it to some succeeding month. In either case it is a day to be LIVED.

But this does matter—there will always be the little things. The scantiness of February impresses the thought upon us.

There will always be the little tasks which we so easily could perform and from which it is very hard to excuse ourselves!

There will always be the little opportunities which bid fair to be stepping stones to nobler service!

There will always be little needs of helpfulness whereby we can show love unto others!

There will always be little moments of time which we can employ to make us better men and women.

These "little things" will always challenge us.

But there are other "little things."

Little words of cheer.

Little counsels of courage.

Little songs of birds.

Little children.

These "little things," too, will ever be ours. And our lives would be much the poorer without them.

And the meaning of it all is this—we need the "little things." What a dreary world this would be were everything ponderous and heavy and mighty! Little duties and opportunities and needs and moments of time—we need them to school us for the big things and to relieve us when our flesh is too frail for greater things. Little helpfulnesses and joys and children—we need them too and for the same reasons.

We couldn't do without the little things. We'd never stand the strain.

So we'll embrace the "little things" gladly, because God sent them; and will dignify them by a Christ-like spirit.

Welcome, February!

A Thought—

"Little things mean much when done for our church"

Financial Statement

The following figures from the annual reports of the Financial Secretary and Treasurer should interest every member of Grace Church:

Money Received

FIRST QUARTER

Brot forw'rd from 1916	\$167.76	
Regular offerings, First Quarter	371.74	
Miscellaneous offerings, First Quarter	36.20	
Extra Donations	45.50	
		\$621.20

SECOND QUARTER

Regular offerings	\$353.00	
Miscellaneous offerings	47.31	
Extra donations	17.00	
		417.31

THIRD QUARTER

Regular offerings	\$324.85	
Miscellaneous offerings	33.21	
Extra donations	930.71	
		1288.77

FOURTH QUARTER

Regular offerings	\$373.65	
Miscellaneous offerings	24.48	
Extra donations	168.22	
		566.35

Grand Total \$2,893.63

Money Paid Out

FIRST QUARTER

Pastor's salary	\$200.00	
Organist's salary	31.45	
Janitor's salary	60.00	
Fuel and light	55.22	
Miscel. expenditures	166.47	
		\$513.20

SECOND QUARTER

Pastor's salary	\$300.00	
Organist's salary	66.30	
Janitor's salary	13.00	
Fuel and light	78.95	
Miscel. expenditures	22.53	
		480.78

THIRD QUARTER

Pastor's salary	\$300.00	
Organist's salary	36.40	
Fuel and light	36.80	
Miscel. expenditures	448.00	
		821.60

FOURTH QUARTER

Pastor's salary	\$400.00	
Organist's salary	73.00	
Janitor's salary	56.00	
Fuel and light	232.72	
Miscel. expenditures	309.84	
		\$1071.56

Total Expenditures	\$2887.14
Cash in bank to balance..	6.49

\$2893.63

The total amount received for Benevolence was	\$ 298.22
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The annual report of the Dore-mus Guild showed receipts for the year	\$770.59
Expenses	642.66

Balance on hand	\$127.93
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The Sunday School treasurer's report shows receipts for the year	\$486.74
Expenses	422.33

Balance on hand	\$ 64.41
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The Christian Endeavor Society, Mary B. Hoy Missionary Circle, the Woman's Missionary Society and the Junior Christian Endeavor all made reports showing their work to be in most excellent conditions.

Mr. Perry Monn and family are now residing with Mr. Valentine Monn on Parnell avenue.

Mrs. Andrew Rhoda, who has been quite ill at St. Joseph's hospital, is slowly improving.

We extend our sympathies to Mr. Sessler in the loss of his mother. Mrs. Sessler was buried at Ligonier, Ind.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

W. F. Close, Supt.

Several girls have been transferred from the Primary to the Blue Bird class and we are sure will find themselves well pleased in this class of wide-awake girls.

It is a little inconvenient to hold all the classes in the Sunday School room but with a little effort we can adjust ourselves to conditions as they force themselves upon us.

Mr. Louis Lininger is now teaching the "David's Companions." This is a class of as bright and interesting a lot of boys as you will find anywhere, and we wish for Mr. Lininger unbounded success.

The extreme cold weather has played havoc with attendances. We will each one need to strive the harder to build up our percentage when the weather is better, or our yearly average will greatly suffer.

Smallpox, mumps and other winter ills have hurt the attendance in the Primary Department, but in spite of these things our little folks have been very faithful, and large attendances have been the rule.

How about the Cradle Roll? We want to get the name of every baby in Grace Church and as many from outside as possible, so if you know of one tell us about it or, better still, get the parents' consent to enroll the baby.

We will soon have a class of boys coming out of the Primary and entering the Junior Department. We are pleased to welcome these boys into the main school room and wish for them and their teachers abundant success.

We are glad to report that after the week's campaign throughout the city for Red Cross members we were still able to enroll nineteen adults through

the Sunday school. The Red Cross is one organization that we can and should all support.

We regret to note the absence of new scholars from our recent reports, which is possibly due to the weather. We would very much like to see each class take up this matter and see if we cannot get a large number of new scholars for our school in the next few weeks.

Plans are being made to organize a Sunday School Board which will have charge of the affairs of the school under the direction of the Consistory. This board will elect the officers and meet at intervals for the discussion of plans for the carrying on of our Sunday School work. New officers for 1918 will be elected just as soon as the approval of the consistory is received.

The collection for the orphans' home netted \$40.60. While not nearly so large as last year still it is very good when we consider that the C. E. Society had a party for the children the previous Saturday and gave the children a lunch and a small remembrance for each, also the fact that other gifts were sent from some of the Sunday school classes. A very nice lot of food supplies were also given in addition to the cash contributions.

About eighty-five of the Gun Metal Buttons—second in the Cross and Crown system of rewards have been distributed to our Sunday School scholars who attended 13 Sundays without missing except for sickness. Remember, if you have started in the attendance contest and have missed a Sunday without proper excuse, you must begin again and as soon as you have attended thirteen consecutive Sundays you will be entitled to the next button so, if you have not been trying for a reward, begin now.

GRACE CHURCH VISITOR

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Class.

George M. Shiffer.....Editor-in-Chief
E. W. Baumgartner.....Business Manager

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ANNOUNCEMENT

It is very probable that existing circumstances will mean the discontinuance of the Grace Church Visitor—at least for a little while, and this may be the last number issued by the Agenda Class. No attempt will be made at any formal farewell announcement. The Class merely wishes to say that it greatly appreciates all of the support it received, both from advertisers and members and friends of Grace Church, and that an earnest continuous effort has been made to provide a church paper deserving support. It is hoped that conditions will readjust themselves, and that it will not be long until the Visitor again makes its regular visits.

The consistory has decided that even though we have fuel on hand, it would not be good policy to attempt to heat the auditorium during the severe and uncertain weather, so for the present Sunday School and the regular morning services will be held in the lecture room. The evening services will be dispensed with, although these will be resumed in a short time or as soon as the weather will permit. All the week-day activities, including the Wednesday prayer meetings, will be held in the homes of the members. By adopting this plan we hope to help the conservation plans of the government and still maintain an active interest in our church and all its departments of work.

The service flag which adorns our auditorium is the Christmas gift to the church of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Gumpfer. We are glad thus to honor our young men who are with the colors. The Visitor extends hearty thanks to the donors.

Following we reprint the poem read by the pastor as a prayer at a recent service:

For the Men at the Front

(Five million copies of this prayer have been sold and the profits given to the various funds for the wounded. It is now being used all round the world.)

Lord God of Hosts, whose mighty hand
Dominion holds on sea and land,
In peace and war thy will we see
Shaping the larger liberty.

Nations may rise and nations fall,
Thy changeless purpose rules them
all.

When death flies swift on wave or field,
Be thou a sure defense and shield!
Console and succor those who fail,
And help and hearten each and all!

O, hear a people's prayers for those
Who fearless face their country's
foes!

For those who weak and broken lie,
In weariness and agony—
Great Healer, to their beds of pain
Come, touch, and make them whole
again!

Oh, hear a people's prayer and bless
Thy servants in their hour of stress!

—From "All's Well," by John Oxenham. (George H. Doran Company.)

Have you put 10c in the little envelope you found in front of your carton for 1918? If you will do this, the cartons need not cost the church anything as everyone will pay for his own.

Reports indicate that on the "blizzard Sunday" our Sunday school had a better attendance in proportion than some larger schools. Always something to be happy about.

Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can.

—Wesley's Rule.

THE LADIES' WORK

Mrs. Robert Gavin, of Warsaw street, is very ill and we hope our ladies will visit her.

The Doremus Guild has installed the Ohio Tucc electric vacuum cleaner in the church.

Monthly meeting of the Woman's Missionary Society on Thursday afternoon, Feb. 21. Mrs. Henry Koepf, hostess.

Social afternoon on Wednesday, Feb. 27th, at the home of Mrs. John Ruck, 1510 Hurd street. Assisting hostesses are Mesdames Koepf, Nyffler, Rogers, Kanning, Schrack, Shults, Botteran, Gemmer, Mazel, Shunk and Schroeder.

The women of the church will have an all-day sewing on Wednesday, Feb. 13. Mrs. Henry Kopf has kindly offered her home for the occasion and we hope to see many women present. The sewing days are a real pleasure for those who attend. If you don't believe it, come and see.

The following letter will interest all the members of Grace Church:

"Black River Falls, Wis.,
"December 13, 1917.

"Mrs. Ed Close,

"Fort Wayne, Ind.

"Dear Friend and Sister in Christ:

"Your kind letter and also the box with hosiery and cookies for our Indian children came to hand and we would herewith heartily thank you and all the donors for same. May our good Lord bless you all for the valuable gift. I wish that you and your Progreda Class could see the joyful and happy faces your gift will help to make.

"Wishing you all a very blessed and joyful Xmas and a Happy New Year, I remain, cordially,

"Yours in Christ,

"J. STUCKI."

BURIALS

Funeral services were conducted by the pastor on the occasion of the death of Mr. Henry Seabold, 1532 Oakland street, on January 13th. Mr. Seabold had attained the age of 76 years and in youth had been nurtured in the Reformed Church. The Visitor extends sympathies.

Mrs. Delilah King-Long, of New Haven, a member of Grace Church, died on January 11th. Services in the charge of Rev. Mr. Heininger and the pastor were conducted from the Methodist Protestant Church, New Haven, January 15th. A host of friends unite with the bereaved family in grief over Mrs. Long's departure.

Mrs. Sophia D. Grafton, a relative of Mr. and Mrs. Shunk, of Grace Church, died January 14th. Rev. Schaaf conducted the funeral services January 17. We extend our sympathies to the bereaved.

BREVITIES

Easter Sunday—March 31st. Don't forget the date.

Mrs. Robert Gavin has been quite ill, but at present is slowly improving.

We rejoice to note that Mrs. Charles Rogers is improving from her illness.

Evening services will be resumed as soon as possible. Your presence will be needed.

The ladies of the church have purchased a fine suction sweeper. Thank you, ladies!

Mrs. Trisch, of Spy Run vaenue, has been quite poorly. We trust she will soon be on the mend.

The cottage prayer meetings are proving successful. The C. E. society unites in the meeting and the C. E. topic is used. You are invited to attend.

ZWINGLI CLASS NOTES

Mrs. Gooley and daughters, the Misses Hazel and Loretta, spent several days in Huntington recently.

Mrs. H. P. Dinger attended the funeral of her aunt, Mrs. Elizabeth Brouwer, of Madison township, on Thursday, January 24th.

In the Cross and Crown reward system twelve of our class, our teacher and eleven members, earned the bronze pin for first thirteen Sundays.

The class voted to knit an afghan for hospital use "over there" and as the ladies all seem very enthusiastic about it, we expect to see it finished in good time. "Watch us knit."

Mrs. Chas. Rogers, who has been a patient at the St. Joseph hospital for some time, is at home again and is reported to be getting along nicely. We will all be very glad when she is able to be with us again.

The January business meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Guebard, 434 E. Creighton Ave., on Tuesday afternoon, Jan. 22. The various committees were appointed and we feel that this will be another successful year for us.

The date of the business meeting was changed from the fourth Tuesday to the second Thursday of each month. The next meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. Hassert, of 810 W. Superior street, on the second Thursday of February.

The Rudisills and other families residing in the country have been interrupted by the severe weather. Their absence at our services has been felt.

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A JOB FOR YOU

The Lord had a job for me,
 But I had so much to do
 I said, "You get somebody else,
 Or wait till I get through."
 I don't know how the Lord came out,
 But He seemed to get along;
 But I felt kind o' sneakin' like—
 Knowed I'd done God wrong.

One day I needed the Lord,
 Needed Him right away,
 But He never answered me at all,
 And I could hear Him say
 Down in my accusin' heart,
 "Nigger, I'se got too much to do;
 You get somebody else,
 Or wait till I get through."

Now, when the Lord He have a job
 for me,
 I never tries to shirk;
 I drops what I have on hand,
 And does the good Lord's work.
 And my affairs can run along,
 Or wait till I get through;
 Nobody else can do the work
 That God marked out for you.
 —Paul Lawrence Dunbar.

Rev. Mr. B. Ruf greeted old friends at Grace Church recently, delivering an address concerning the Smith Home for the Aged. We were glad to hear of this phase of the larger work of the church.

The weather and the fuel situation indicate that the decision of the consistory to hold all services in the Sunday school room was wise. We all long for the time when we again can enjoy our beautiful auditorium.

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